Research Sources

Who are you writing about? Why are they important?

What are their research interests? Express as many keywords as you can. Think of synonyms, larger concepts and narrower concepts.

Examples:
Charles Darwin: biology, natural history, evolution, natural selection, diversification in nature
Tu Youyou: chemistry, medicine, disease, tropical disease, malaria, artemisinin

Consider combining keywords using truncation and Boolean operators for effective searching.

Truncation: Many databases utilize a truncation symbol (like * and ?) to broaden a search by searching the root of a word. Check the help pages of the tool you are using to determine the correct symbol.
Example:
- smok* will locate smoke, smoking, smoker
- business* will locate business, businesses, businesspeople

Phrases: For more accurate results, place phrases in quotation marks.
Example: “tropical punch” “star wars” “folk art”

Boolean Operators: Many databases and catalog utilize AND, OR and NOT (Boolean operators) for concept and synonym searching.
Example:
- (cigarette* OR tobacco) searches for records with either or both words.
- bacon AND (sodium OR salt) searches for the word bacon and one or both of the following words

Many databases have an advanced search screen that makes Boolean searching easy!
## Sources to Explore

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Course Research Guide: [http://library.monmouthcollege.edu/intg201Godde](http://library.monmouthcollege.edu/intg201Godde)